

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Gary Myers on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Gary Myers is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for more than thirty years as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers has led the TWRA for the past three decades with a gentle leadership style that has allowed him to accomplish great tasks without overlooking the people he leads; and

WHEREAS, with this strategy, he has become the longest-serving director of a state wildlife agency, inspiring those in his field with his endurance and drive; and

WHEREAS, Gary Myers is widely recognized as a leader in his field, a result of his more than two decades of helping shape national and international wildlife policy, especially in the areas of bird and wetland conservation; and

WHEREAS, he worked to get legislation passed that directs tax money from sporting equipment to conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, his colleagues attribute Myers's success to his quiet but firm leadership style, commenting that he is a visionary and that, though his voice is soft, people listen to what he says; and

WHEREAS, Gary Myers discovered his love for wildlife at a young age while hunting with his father in his small hometown of Canyon, Texas; by the time he was eight years old, he spent much of his time duck hunting on his own; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers joined the Marines in hopes of paying his college tuition through the G.I. Bill, and he was selected as a student battalion commander for the Naval Academy; and

WHEREAS, as a sophomore, Gary Myers married and left the Naval Academy to work for the power company in Washington, where he first came across a *National Geographic* Magazine that ignited his passion for wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, excited about his new career goal, Mr. Myers told his friends he wanted to go to Colorado and chase mountain lions, and he followed through with his dream; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers moved to Colorado and enrolled at Colorado State University, where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in the field of wildlife management before gaining employment with the Colorado Division of Wildlife in 1963; and

WHEREAS, he worked as a turkey biologist before he was promoted to the position of big game supervisor for the entire State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission underwent its transition into the TWRA, and Mr. Myers was hired the same year as Assistant Director of Field Operations, a job he assumed would be temporary; and

WHEREAS, with the exit of the Executive Director in 1977, Gary Myers took the helm on an interim basis and was named Executive Director in 1978; and

WHEREAS, in this position, he began focusing his attention on national issues that affected wildlife in Tennessee, working on a number of issues in Washington, including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, after more than thirty years in this position, Mr. Myers will be taking a much deserved retirement on March 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Gary Myers exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to his career and his community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, fighting with what his colleagues call “the persistence of Job” on behalf of Tennessee’s natural habitat and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Myers has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we extend to Gary Myers our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.